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fred, as discussed, please take this one. moe

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SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE STC - AFSCF FILM
REFERE[redacted]1075

I. A COMPULSION EXISTS TO REVEAL THE SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE, NETWORKS SYSTEMS AND DETAIL OF OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS PRESENTLY MANIFESTED IN TWO PROPOSED ACTIONS: (1) PRESS CONFERENCE IN STC AND (2) SCF FILM. WE ARE UNABLE TO SEE ANY AREA BY WHICH THE AIR FORCE STANDS TO GAIN, SUCH AS BUDGET, PUBLIC SUPPORT OR TROOP MORALE. AT STAKE IS THE LOSS OF SECURITY FOR THIS CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCE. OUR PRESENT POLICY OF LOW KEY - NO PUBLICITY HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS:

A. MAXIMUM SECURITY PROTECTION IN AN OPEN SOCIETY ABOUT AN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE.

B. VERY LITTLE UNFAVORABLE REACTION FROM COUNTRIES OVER WHICH WE FLY AND COLLECT INTELLIGENCE.

C. FAVORABLE MEDIA COMMENT. WE HAVE NEVER HAD NEGATIVE CRITICISM OR COMMENT ABOUT OUR OPERATIONS FROM MEDIA.

II. A. PRESS CONFERENCE - [redacted]23

A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE STC IS TANTAMOUNT TO OPENING UP THE STC FOR FUTURE MEDIA ACTIVITY. BY OPENING UP THE STC TO THE NEWS MEDIA WE INITIATE A HALLMARK CHANGE IN OUR PUBLIC POSTURE. NO LONGER CAN THE PRESS BE DENIED. THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW TAKES OVER. UNRELENTING PRESSURE FOR MORE AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE ON ONCE WE PUT FORTH SUCH A SUPER CUE TO THE MEDIA. INCLUDED IN THE JUDGEMENT ON SUCH A MOVE MUST BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN PUBLICITY, SECURITY COMPROMISES, RENEWED INDEPTH SPECULATIONS AND PRESS QUERIES.

WP-167/73.

1. NO MATTER WHAT THE PLANNED TEXT IS FOR A DR. MCLUCAS PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE STC THE MEDIA WILL HIGHLIGHT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION BY SATELLITE. YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE THE STC CHARACTERIZED AS "THE CENTER OF OPERATIONS FOR SPY SATELLITES". ANY ATTEMPT TO SORT OUT CLASSIFIED VS UNCLASSIFIED IS FRUITLESS. DR. MCLUCAS' PRESENTATION WILL BE OLD STUFF UNLESS HE TALKS "RECCE." DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO REMEMBERS LADY GODIVA'S HORSE? THE ONLY MISSION OF INTEREST IS THE ONE THAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN FROM VIEW - THE ENTICING ONE - INTELLIGENCE. EXPECT TO SEE THE ARTICLE(S) CAPTIONED "SPY IN SKY CENTER" OR SIMILAR CATCH PHRASE.

2. ONE CANNOT REALLY COMPARE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE STC TO THE DSAP SCENARIO. IN THE LATTER THERE WAS NEW INFORMATION

ABOUT "WEATHER SATELLITES" THAT WAS BEING RELEASED. IN THE CASE OF THE STC IT IS THE OPENING UP THE NETWORK CENTER THAT WILL BE FEATURED WITH ALL OF THE SPECULATION INCLUDED AS TO WHAT THE NETWORK PRIMARILY DOES, AND WHY IT HAS BEEN CLOSED UNTIL NOW TO THE NEWS MEDIA.

3. LAST - DR. MCLUCAS (OR ANY OTHER PRINCIPAL) WILL BE PLACED IN EXACTLY THE POSITION WE DO NOT WANT HIM IN. HE EITHER HAS TO LIE (AND HE WOULDN'T DO THAT) OR BE EMBARRASSED AND DECEPTIVE IN PARRYING THE QUESTIONS REGARDING RECONNAISSANCE. THIS IS SUICIDE IN THE PRESENT SOCIO/POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT.

III. SCF FIL[redacted]S

A. THE PROPOSED PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE SCF FILM WILL REVEAL THE TOTAL SPECTRUM OF ACTIVITY CONTROLLING RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES. INCLUDED ARE THE SCF NETWORK, HOW SCF WORKS OUT A MISSION FOR A HYPOTHETICAL SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE IN POLAR ORBIT AT AN ALTITUDE OF 100 MILES AND ALL OF THE RECOVERY SEQUENCES IN DETAIL.

B. AS THE ONLY RECOVERY OPERATIONS IN EXISTENCE ARE NRO DRVS WITH FILM, IT IS DECISIVELY DEBILITATING TO OUR PHOTO INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS TO ALLOW THIS ACTIVITY TO BE PARADED BEFORE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO NEED TO KNOW. WE HAVE BEEN AVOIDING ANY INFORMATION RELEASES ON RECOVERY. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE GENERAL ACTIVITY ITSELF IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TECHNICALLY CLASSIFY, THE TOTAL COMPOSITE OF THE SCF NETWORK AND THE RECOVERY SEQUENCES SHOULD KEEP THAT FILM SECRET. THE FILM SHOULD REMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE AGREED TO ITS PRODUCTION, I.E., TRAINING AND FOR SHOWING TO SELECTED PEOPLE WHO HAVE A NEED.

IV. IF IT IS TO THE NATIONAL AND AIR FORCE INTEREST TO RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AIR FORCE SPACE ACTIVITY, THE REASON SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DECISION MACHINERY ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE "FACT OF". TAKING ACTIONS SUCH AS RELEASING NRO RECOVERY ACTIVITY AND HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCES FROM THE HEART OF THE NETWORK THAT CONTROLS RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES IS PRECIPITOUS AND TENDS TO PRE-EMPT THE DECISION MAKING APPARATUS BEFORE IT HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE ITS CAREFUL ACTIONS. IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER JUDGEMENT TO HOLD OFF RELEASING THE STC FILM OR CONDUCTING THE "PRESS CONFERENCE" UNTIL THE POLICY MEETINGS NOW IN SESSION SET FORTH DELIBERATION.

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